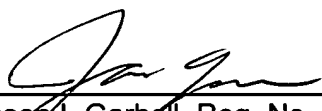


Belghith et al. clearly does not teach any nucleic acid sequence or protein sequence. Furthermore, Belghith et al. was not an enabling disclosure. That is, even if an artisan wanted to obtain the nucleic acid sequences encoding the enzyme identified in this publication, the artisan could not because neither the organism that is the source of the DNA sequence nor the DNA sequence of claim 1 was known more than one year prior to the filing date of the present invention. In this regard, the Examiner cannot rely on the deposit made by Applicants on February 1, 1999 for the event of placing the DNA sequences or a source of the DNA sequences into the public domain, because Applicants' deposit was made less than one year prior to the filing date of the present application, and, as a matter of law, this event is not prior art.

In view of the above, it is respectfully submitted that all claims are in condition for allowance. Early action to that end is respectfully requested. The Examiner is hereby invited to contact the undersigned by telephone if there are any questions concerning this amendment or application.

Respectfully submitted,

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